

Does it really contribute to peace- and state-building?

Land governance and land use changes during the civil war in southern Myanmar

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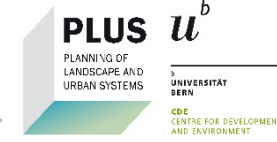
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**Swiss Programme for Research
on Global Issues for Development**



Policy Analysis and
Environmental
Governance (PEGO)



r4d project «Managing telecoupled landscapes»

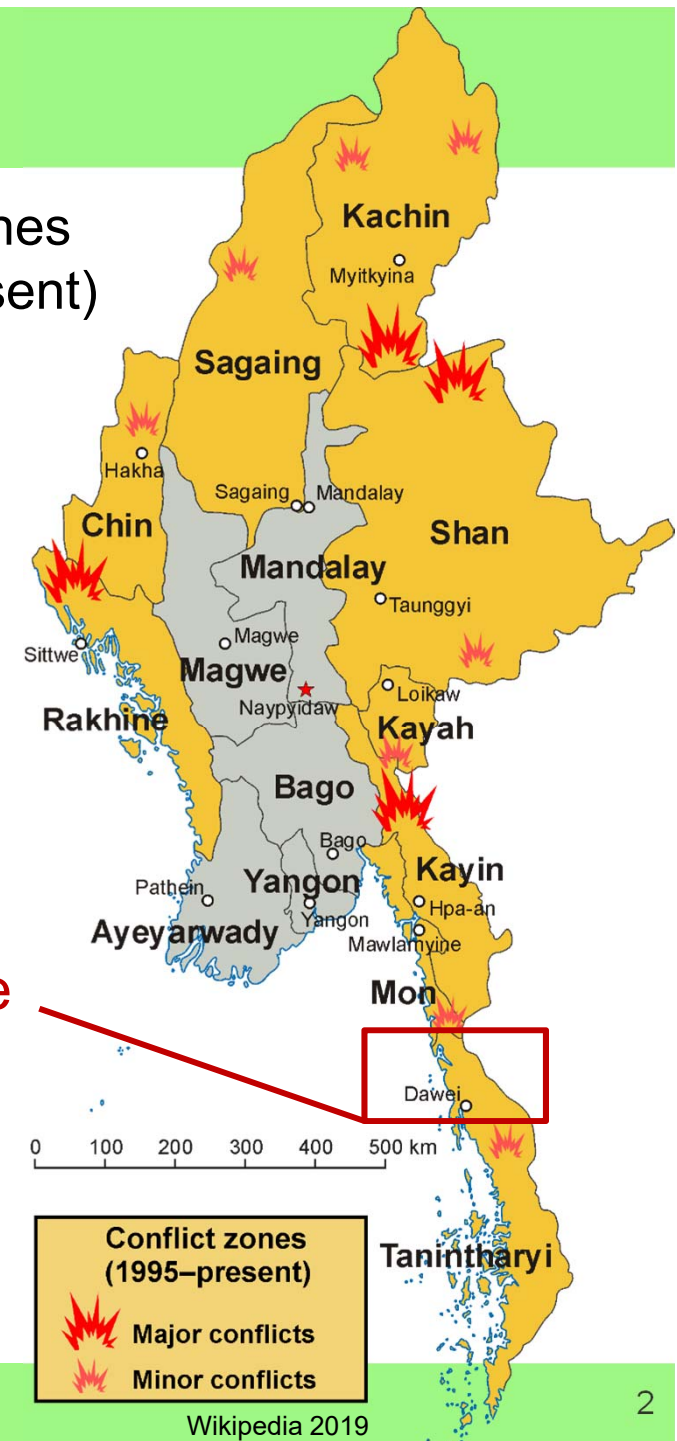
Context Myanmar

KNU = Karen National Union
(ethnic organization claiming
sovereignty for south-eastern Myanmar)

Regional ceasefire 2012

conflict zones
(1995-present)

case study site
(3 villages)

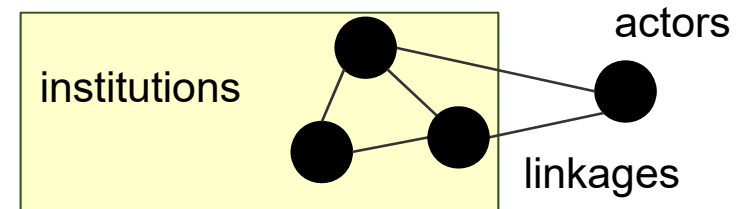


Study focus

- > **This paper aims at exploring...**
 - to what extent **land use changes** (LUCs) in southern Myanmar are a **result** of warfare strategy and
 - whether the creation of **distal linkages** (telecoupling) is a **means** of warfare strategy for increased dominance in land use decision-making.

Methodology

- > Social network analysis approach of actors (nodes), linkages (flows of goods, money, information, people) and institutions (formal and informal)



- > Methods for data collection:
 - Focus group discussions to identify and analyse LUCs (n=12)
 - Surveys (n=92) and exploratory interviews (n=99) by following the flows in the networks (snowball sampling)
 - Data gaps: grey literature, qual. interviews with third parties etc.

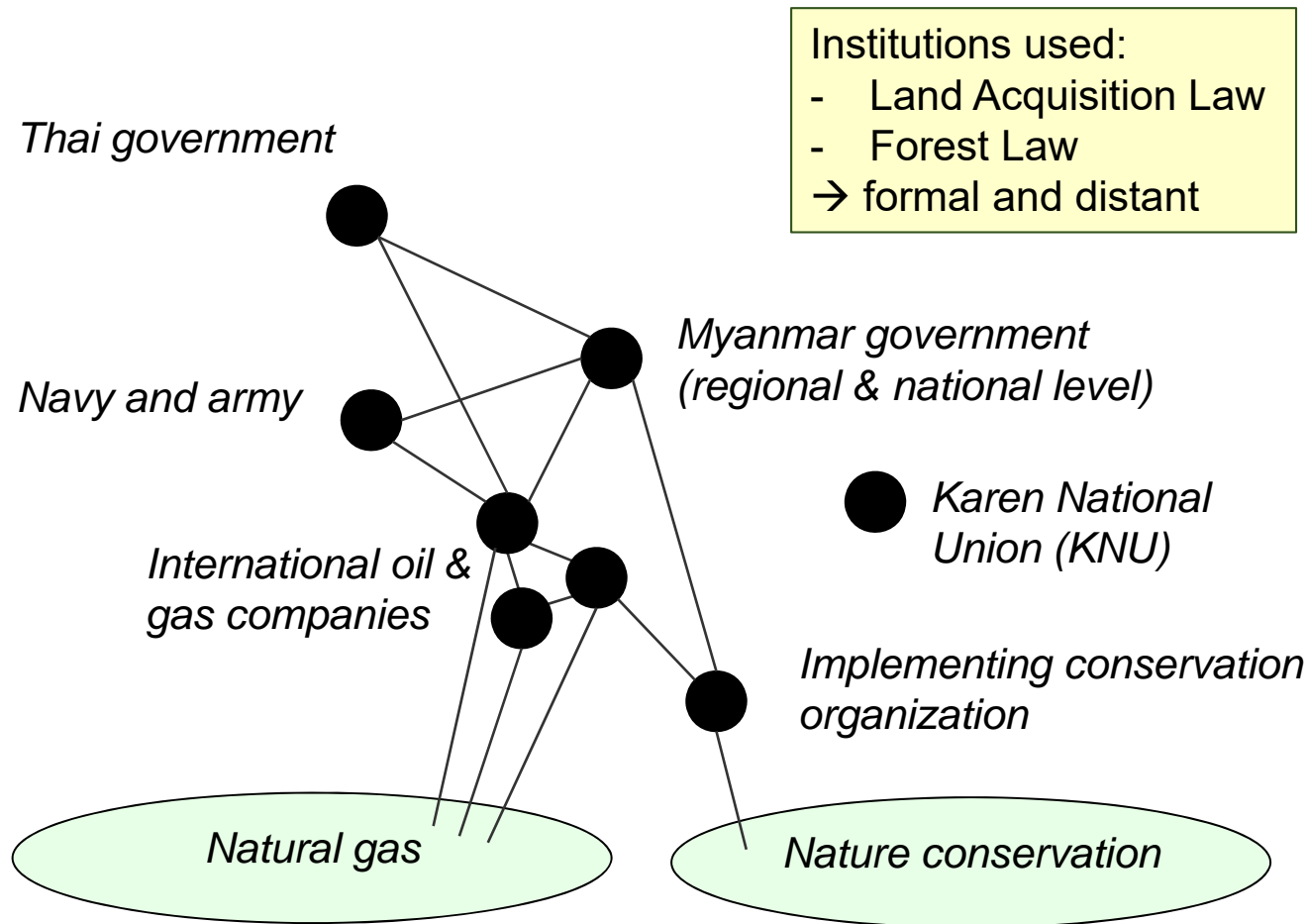
(1) What were the **LUCs** initiated during the armed conflict?

Before: Shifting cultivation, forest use, based on customary system

- > Main LUCs during war (until 2011):
 - Natural gas production (1990s)
 - Nature conservation area (2005)
 - Oil palm concession (2000s)



(2) How did actors during the armed conflict forge **linkages** to distant actors and institutions and how did these influence LUCs?



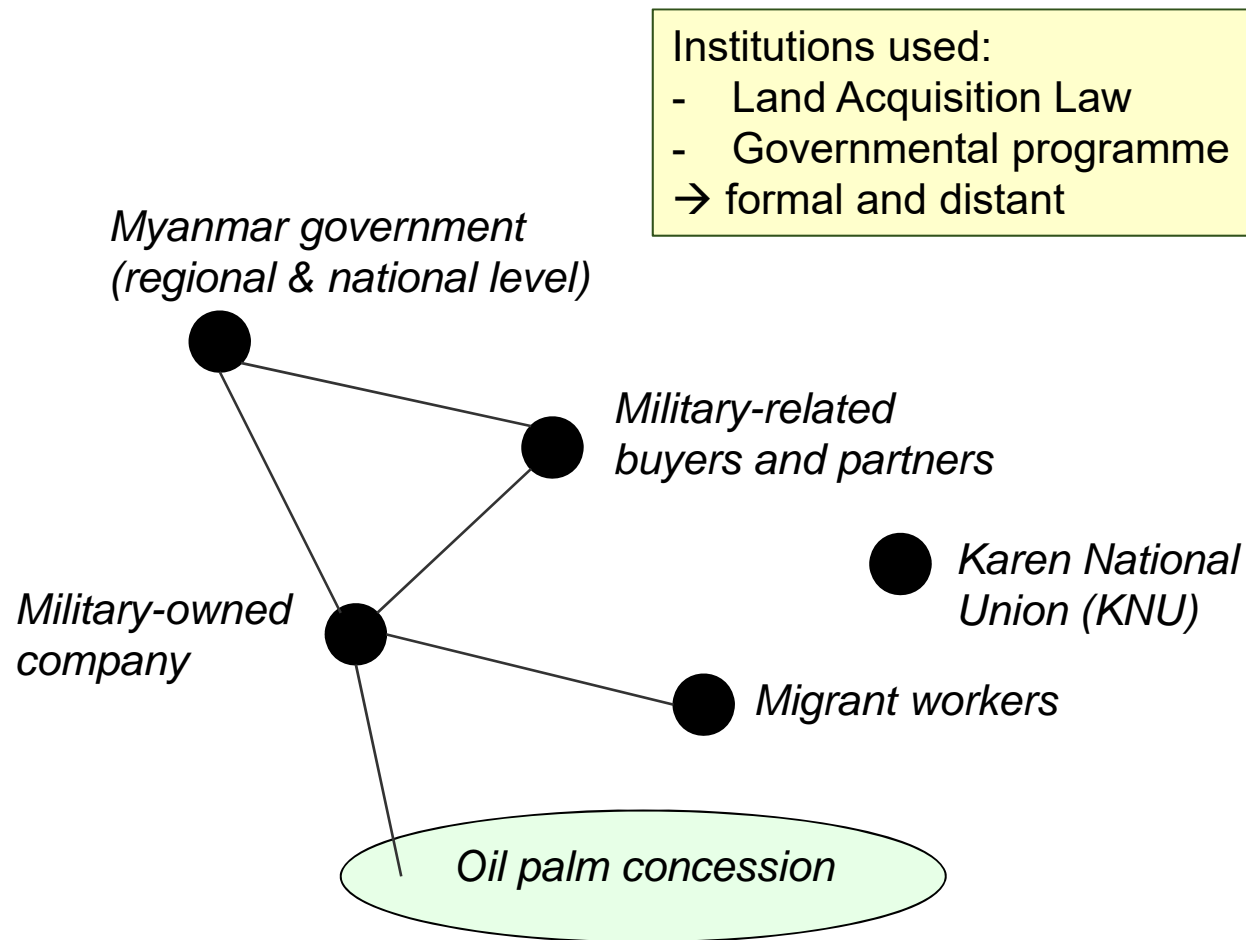
Natural gas



Nature conservation



(2) How did actors during the armed conflict forge **linkages** to distant actors and institutions and how did these influence LUCs?



Oil palm concession



Interpretation of land use changes

| Land use change | | Strategy behind it | |
|-----------------|----------------------|--|---|
| During war | Natural gas: | Economic strategy, maybe also warfare strategy | Conscious creation of link to distant actors and institutions |
| | Nature conservation: | Environmental strategy, maybe also «green territoriality» warfare strategy | |
| | Oil palm concession: | Economic strategy, very likely also warfare strategy | |

Conclusions in response to the session

- > (1) What are typical land-use outcomes of warfare, and what is the role of land use in triggering conflict?
 - Outcomes are **land acquisitions** by dominating warring faction with «**double-win-strategy**»:
 - (a) warfare strategy for control over land (and people), and
 - (b) other benefit (e.g. economic, environmental benefit)
 - Armed conflicts trigger LUCs, and such LUCs in return trigger more conflicts → **vicious cycle**

- > (2) Through which mechanisms do armed conflicts forge distal linkages (telecouplings)?
 - Conscious creation of distal linkages in warfare for finding
 - (a) **allies** and **actors of LUC implementation**, and
 - (b) **legal justification** for the interventions

Thank you!

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